WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1.   A method for determining quality of content of data for a receiver of the data, the data having at least one record, the at least one record having at least one data field, the method comprising the following steps:

5   assessing the content of the data using a criteria;

assigning a grade as a function of the criteria, the grade indicative of the quality of the content of the data; and,

linking the grade to the content of the data;

wherein the receiver dynamically accesses the grade to determine subsequent use of the

10 data without having to access the data.

2.   The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the step of linking further comprises associating a portion of a file name to the grade.

15 3.   The method as recited in claim 2 wherein the filename corresponds to a file containing the data.

4.   The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising associating a grade file with the grade.

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5.   The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the quality corresponds to a particular data field of the at least one data field.

6.   The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the quality corresponds to a particular record of the at least one record.

5   7.   The method as recited in claim 1 wherein a particular quality corresponds to a particular record of the at least one record.

8.   The method as recited in claim 1 wherein a particular quality corresponds to a particular field of the at least one particular field.

9.   The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the criteria for determining the quality is a predefined function.

10.   The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the criteria for determining the quality uses access to a database.

11.   The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the criteria for determining the quality is an externally defined function.

20   12.   The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the criteria for determining the quality uses access to an independent database.

13.   The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the grade is numeric.

14.   The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the grade is a color.

5   15.   The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the grade is a Boolean.

16.   The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the step of linking further comprises associating the grade to a data set.

10   17.   The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the criteria for determining the quality is customized by the receiver.

18.   The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising assigning a rating as a function of the grade.

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19.   A system for determining quality of content of data for a receiver of the data, the data having at least one record, the at least one record having at least one data field, the system comprising the following steps:

assessment means for assessing the content of the data using a criteria;

20   assignment means for assigning a grade as a function of the criteria, the grade indicative of the quality of the content of the data; and,

link means for linking the grade to the content of the data;

wherein the receiver dynamically accesses the grade to determine subsequent use of the data without having to access the data.

20.   The system as recited in claim 19 wherein the link means further comprises associating a portion of a file name to the grade.

21.   The system as recited in claim 20 wherein the filename corresponds to a file containing the data.

22.   The system as recited in claim 19 further comprising means for associating a grade file with the grade.

23.   The system as recited in claim 19 wherein the quality corresponds to a particular data field of the at least one data field.

24.   The system as recited in claim 19 wherein the quality corresponds to a particular record of the at least one record.

25.   The system as recited in claim 19 wherein a particular quality corresponds to a particular record of the at least one record.

26.   The system as recited in claim 19 wherein a particular quality corresponds to a particular

field of the at least one particular field.

27. The system as recited in claim 19 wherein the criteria for determining the quality is a predefined function.

28. The system as recited in claim 19 wherein the criteria for determining the quality uses access to a database.

29. The system as recited in claim 19 wherein the criteria for determining the quality is an externally defined function.

30. The system as recited in claim 19 wherein the criteria for determining the quality uses access to an independent database.

31. The system as recited in claim 19 wherein the grade is numeric.

32. The system as recited in claim 19 wherein the grade is a color.

33. The system as recited in claim 19 wherein the grade is a Boolean.

34. The system as recited in claim 19 wherein the link means further comprises means for associating the grade to a data set.

35.   The system as recited in claim 19 wherein the criteria is customized by the receiver.

36.   The system as recited in claim 19 further comprising means for assigning a rating as a

5   function of the grade.